

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-20 NEA-11

IO-14 NIC-01 ACDA-19 AF-10 DRC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /154 W

----- 119137

R 291028Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7505

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2446

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PL, UR, US,XF

SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS ON SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST
DIPLOMACY

REF: BUDAPEST 157

1. THE POLISH CENTRAL PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVER-
AGE DURING THE PAST TWO WEEKS TO THE SECRETARY'S
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS RELATED TO THE AGREEMENT ON DISEN-
GAGEMENT OF FORCES IN THE SINAI. THE AGREEMENT
ITSELF HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS HAVING BEEN "REACHED
THROUGH THE MEDIATION" OF THE SECRETARY. HIS TRAVELS
TO MIDDLE EASTERN CAPITALS HAVE RECEIVED PROMINENT,
GENERALLY FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE, AND HIS JAN 22 PRESS
CONFERENCE WAS REPORTED WITH EXTENSIVE QUOTATIONS.
ALTHOUGH EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS BEEN MORE RESERVED THAN
THE REPORTING ITSELF, THE OVERALL EFFECT GIVES THE
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IMPRESSION OF US DIPLOMACY OVERSHADOWING, IF NOT ECLIPSING,

THAT OF THE SOVIET UNION. PREVIOUSLY, POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNEF AND INITIATION OF THE TALKS AT THE 101-KILOMETER POST AND IN GENEVA HAD EMPHASIZED THE DUAL SOVIET-AMERICAN ROLE, GIVING GENERALLY EQUAL CREDIT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DETENTE. THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM RECENT COVERAGE OF MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS.

2. THE BALANCE WAS RESTORED SOMEWHAT IN THE REPORTING OF EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW. ADDITIONALLY, TRYBUNA LUDU ON JAN 24, QUOTED EXTENSIVELY, FROM THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, REMARKS CONCERNING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SOVIET ROLE IN RESOLVING THE CONFLICT. FINALLY, TRYBUNA LUDU IN A WEEKLY COLUMN ON JAN 27 TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT THE "AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WAS ACHIEVED WITH THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET UNION."

3. NEVERTHELESS, THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL ROLE AND THAT OF US DIPLOMACY GENERALLY HAS SHOWN THROUGH CLEARLY AND FAVORABLE IN POLISH PRESS REPORTING OF RECENT MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS WITH SURPRISINGLY LITTLE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN THE CUSTOMARY "BALANCE." JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS HAVE EXPRESSED TO US THEIR OPEN ADMIRATION OF THE SECRETARY'S ACHIEVEMENTS. A HIGHLY FAVORABLE PROFILE OF THE SECRETARY APPEARING IN THE JAN 25 ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE MERELY ENHANCES THIS OVERALL POSITIVE IMPACT. (THE EMBASSY HAD FURNISHED SOME FACTUAL MATERIAL TWO WEEKS AGO UPON REQUEST FOR THIS ARTICLE. A COPY WITH TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH HAS BEEN POUCHED. DAVIES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMISTICE, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DETENTE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WARSAW00579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: WARSAW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974017/aaaaagjm.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BUDAPEST 157
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <30 MAY 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLISH PRESS ON SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PL, UR, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005